

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1-12 (canceled):

Claim 13 (withdrawn – previously presented): A method for immunizing a subject comprising:

administering an immunizing effective amount of a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid,
wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 13 comprising further administering a recombinant protein or vector boost.

Claim 15 (withdrawn – previously presented): A method for immunizing a subject comprising:

administering an immunizing effective amount of a vector comprising a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid,
wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 15 comprising further administering a recombinant protein boost.

Claims 17-20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (withdrawn – previously presented): A method for augmenting a cellular immune response to a virus comprising:

administering an effective amount of a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid to augment the cellular immune response to the virus,
wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 21 further comprising administering a recombinant protein or vector boost.

Claim 23 (withdrawn – previously presented): A method for augmenting a cellular immune response to a virus comprising:

administering an effective amount of a vector comprising a nucleic acid comprising a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid to augment the cellular immune response to the virus,
wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 23 further comprising administering a recombinant protein boost.

Claims 25-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (currently amended): A DNA molecule comprising a nucleic acid encoding a viral protein, the nucleic acid comprising:

a one contiguous deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a viral protein encoded by the nucleic acid of contiguous amino acids in the nucleic acid;
wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process;

wherein the budding mediating motif one contiguous deletion consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of PTAP (SEQ ID NO: 1), PPX₁Y (SEQ ID NO:2), YX₂X₃L (SEQ ID NO:3), and a combination thereof, ~~and wherein the budding mediating motif does not include of any amino acids directly adjacent to the amino acid sequence.~~

Claim 30 (currently amended): The DNA molecule of Claim 29~~[[,]]~~;

wherein the viral protein is a Gag protein of a retrovirus or a matrix protein of a rhabdovirus or filovirus.

Claim 31 (previously presented): A vector comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 29.

Claim 32 (previously presented): A composition comprising the vector of Claim 31.

Claim 33 (previously presented): A composition comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 29.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A DNA molecule comprising a nucleic acid encoding a viral protein, the nucleic acid comprising:

a deletion mutation of the budding mediating motif of a the viral protein ~~encoded by the~~ nucleic acid~~[[,]]~~;

~~wherein the viral protein is associated with the virus budding process, and~~

wherein the budding mediating motif comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of PPX₁Y (SEQ ID NO:2), YX₂X₃L (SEQ ID NO:3), and a combination thereof;

wherein X₁ is not P;

wherein when X₂ is P, X₃ is not D; and

wherein when X₃ is D, X₂ is not P.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The DNA molecule of Claim 34~~[[,]]~~;

wherein the viral protein is a Gag protein of a retrovirus or a matrix protein of a rhabdovirus or filovirus.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A vector comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 34.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A composition comprising the vector of Claim 36.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A composition comprising the DNA molecule of Claim 34.